

Deputy Supervisor/Councilman William Johnson opened the Workshop Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Pawling at 7:00 PM April 4, 2018 at Pawling Town Hall, 160 Charles Colman Blvd., Pawling, New York. Present were Councilmen DeRosa, McCarthy and approximately 20 interested citizens. Supervisor Schmitt and Councilman Kelly were absent.

PUBLIC HEARING/ LOCAL LAW TO CHANGE GREIVANCE DAY FOR ASSESSMENTS

Councilman Johnson said the Town of Pawling shares an Assessor with the Town of Patterson so by State Law, the Town of Pawling needs to set its Grievance Day for a different day.

Councilman Johnson opened the public hearing.
There were no comments.
Councilman Johnson closed the public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING/COMCAST CABLE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

Councilman Johnson said the public hearing for the cable franchise agreement would not be closed tonight. He encouraged anyone who has concerns to comment to the Board in writing.

Councilman Johnson opened the public hearing.

Helen Grosso, resident from Tracy Road, said she asked questions in writing.

Councilman Johnson said Supervisor Schmitt said he would answer Mrs. Grosso's questions.

Mrs. Grosso asked if the Board has ever thought about doing video stream of town meetings. She was in favor of this and a lot of towns are doing it.

Councilman Johnson said the Board has discussed it but the cost was too high but it is certainly open for discussion.

Mrs. Grosso said in the September 13th minutes, it is stated that Comcast is offering a 30% discount on the plan for a two year package. It was for the town.

Councilman Johnson said his recollection is that the plan was for the Highway Department and Recreation Department but she should add that to her list of questions so an accurate answer can be given.

Harvey Matcovsky resident from Crescent Drive, Holmes said the service we have is antiquated. He would have hoped that while the Board was negotiating a renewal of the contract, they would have mandated that Comcast update their service here and change the lines.

Betsy Montgomery, resident from Quaker Hill Road, said this is a 15 year contract, which seems a little long given the rate of technology growth. The technology changes we will see in the next 15 years are going to make this whole thing obsolete and yet we will be tied to Comcast. She felt a much shorter contract could be negotiated if one has to be negotiated at all.

Leslie Mondshein, resident from Harmony Road, said we are on the eve of a film that filmed here in Pawling being released which created jobs and a lot of money for the State of New York. The film will do really well and Pawling is getting a lot of PR. It is an opportunity to be sure that we end up being state of the art. As someone in the business, this is a possible growth potential. It would be great to know that we have absolutely the best possible outcome for keeping up with technology.

Eric Paulson, resident from Squire Green/Deerfield Ponds, said he is here tonight to familiarize himself with the process and Town Board meetings. He felt the 15 year contract was a little sketchy but his research shows that most municipalities have 15 year contracts. He asked if this was a non-exclusive contract. He read through the franchise agreement and most municipalities have a non-exclusive agreement so another provider can come in. He asked about the town getting 3% instead of 5% of the revenues.

Councilman Johnson said the Board is trying to keep costs down for the residents. He said Mr. Paulson should submit his questions in writing so they can be accurately answered.

There were no further comments and Councilman Johnson stated he would keep the public hearing open until the next meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

The Board discussed the proposed resolutions. Following discussion, it was agreed that the resolutions would be placed on the April 11, 2018 Town Board meeting agenda.

FURTHER DISCUSSION

Councilman DeRosa said as the Board knows, a few months ago the Board received a couple of requests from property owners north of the Village on Route 22. The requests were for zoning changes for their properties to commercial, they are now residential. One request was from Al Thomsen, who purchased Martin's Country Craftsman, which was developed with a variance and has a site plan in place. As long as Mr. Thomsen keeps the business operating the way it is now, he can continue to operate the way it is zoned now as pre-existing, non-conforming. He is requesting a change to Highway Business. The second request is by Supervisor Schmitt's family and they are requesting a zoning change for part of their property from residential to Highway Business. Councilman DeRosa felt it was time to do something with this request and move it on for investigation by the Planning Board and Implementation Committee. The Board recently just changed zoning from the Rooney property down to the auto body place along Route 22. That was discussed heavily when the Master Plan was updated. There is 3% of land zoned commercial in Pawling. The Implementation Committee was charged to look at where more commercial zoning could be placed. They did not look at north of the Village. Much research was done on the previous zoning change by JoAnne Daley, which was given to consultant Liz Axelson, which saved the Town a lot of money. That zone change cost the Town a lot of money. With this proposed change, the Town is starting from scratch because no investigation has been done. He felt that before the Board decided to go forward with this, he suggested giving it to the Planning Board and Implementation Committee and begin compiling information. He also suggested opening this open to the public to get comments on this early on. There was concern in the Master Plan that the Hurds Corner area is a CEA (Critical Environmental Area). A CEA requires the Planning Board to look at development much closer, with a fine tooth comb, due to environmental constraints. That is the process he felt should be started. Councilman DeRosa said he discussed this with Councilman Kelly but has not discussed it with Supervisor Schmitt.

Councilman Johnson said given the absence of two Board members, he asked that this be put on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

WATER BILL CREDIT/REID

Councilman Johnson made a resolution to refund Mrs. Terri Reid \$90.00 in a one-time settlement and to send a letter to the Sewer Commission recommending a credit of \$150.00 representing the amount of credit for the same reading that would have reflected in the \$90.00 credit for the water district, seconded by Councilman DeRosa, motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Vinny DiMarco thanked all Board members for visiting the dam and showing interest in the project. Cofferdam #2 is completed and the sand bags are in place. The project is running smoothly.

Kate Fusco, resident from Tracy Road, asked about the results of the sound testing that was conducted for Daryl's House.

Councilman Johnson said he did not have specific records but he gave her a form to fill out and submit and she would get an answer. The Town Board has taken no action and there is continued discussion by Town Board on this.

Peter Cris, President of the Chamber of Commerce said the Castagna organization has inquired as to whether the town is interested in doing anything to commemorate the long service of Kent Johnson. He was suggesting maybe a plaque or something at town hall and he asked the Board to consider it. If there is interest, he would pass it along to Castagna. Mr. Cris also mentioned

that there is a potential hub possibly being created for film in Pawling, there is interest in having a base here.

Harvey Matcovsky invited the Town Board and all interested to the School Board meeting this coming Monday, where the Board will vote on the tax rate for the 2018-19 year. Around the 15th of May is when the taxpayers will vote on this budget. The School Board has been able to close the budget with reserves. The bonding of the middle school will be retired in 2021 or 2022 and a bond reserve fund has been set up for that. He hoped that the Lakeside Park bonding funds will be planned for when the bond is retired. The 2018-19 school budget will be increased for the first time in three or four years due to increases in health insurance. The School Board has mitigated it to a certain extent but their employees are in the union and there are contracts that must be upheld. The Town does not have that problem and he suggested increased cost sharing for Town employees as there is no union.

Councilman Johnson said the golf course will open on Friday.

Councilman Johnson made a motion at 7:35 PM to adjourn the meeting in honor of Bill Turner, a good, long time resident of Pawling, member of the fire department, his neighbor who sadly passed away, seconded by Councilman McCarthy, motion passed unanimously.

Town Clerk